



*A Nonpartisan Public Policy and Research Office of the Connecticut General Assembly*

State Capitol  
210 Capitol Ave.  
Hartford, CT 06106  
860-240-5200  
[www.cga.ct.gov/coa](http://www.cga.ct.gov/coa)

Julia Evans Starr  
Executive Director

Deb Migneault  
Senior Policy Analyst

Alyssa Norwood  
Project Manager

Christianne Kovel  
Special Projects  
Coordinator

*With 21 volunteer  
board members from  
across the state*

## **Human Services Committee**

**March 24, 2015**

### **Testimony**

**Julia Evans Starr**

**Executive Director, Connecticut's Legislative Commission on Aging**

Senator Moore, Representative Abercrombie and esteemed members of the Human Services Committee, my name is Julia Evans Starr and I am the Executive Director of Connecticut's Legislative Commission on Aging. I thank you for this opportunity to comment on HB 6464: An Act Assisting Mobility-Challenged Senior Citizens

As you know, Connecticut's Legislative Commission on Aging is the non-partisan, public policy office of the General Assembly devoted to preparing Connecticut for a significantly changed demographic and enhancing the lives of the present and future generations of older adults. For over twenty years, our Commission has served as an effective leader in statewide efforts to promote choice, independence and dignity for Connecticut's older adults and persons with disabilities.

### **HB 6464: An Act Assisted Mobility-Challenges Senior ~ CT's Legislative Commission on Aging Informs**

Certainly, we appreciate the intent of this committee for raising this issue of assisting older adults with mobility challenges to have access to accessible transportation. Transportation is key to well-being, independence and community engagement.

Currently, the Department of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) does offer direct loans to individuals for the purchase of assistive technology, including vehicles, through the Tech Act. The amount they can loan to older adults and persons with disabilities for the purchase (or retrofitting) of accessible vehicles is capped at \$30,000. Additionally, the Connecticut Department of Transportation administers a federal program through Section 5310 which makes grants to nonprofit agencies and municipalities to purchase vehicles to provide service to older adults and persons with disabilities. Any additional opportunity for transportation services for older adults and persons with disabilities should build upon existing structures and funding streams to help maximize efficiencies and best coordinate services.



This bill would provide loans to communities with 100,000 or more residents. Therefore, this opportunity would be available to 5 cities in Connecticut (Bridgeport, New Haven, Hartford, Waterbury and Stamford). Further, it is for the benefit of people age 60 years of age and older. The Legislative Commission on Aging recommends modifications to this bill which ensure access across geographical regions and age cohorts.